

CARING FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

Supporting the Edwards Air Force Base mission through sound environmental stewardship



Rogers (pictured below) and Rosamond dry lakebeds are two unique natural resources that help make Edwards the premier flight test facility. The lakebeds are among the lowest points in the Antelope Valley and collect seasonal rain and snow runoff from surrounding hills and also from the San Gabriel Mountains to the south and the Tehachapi Mountains to the west.

Photo by Bobbi Garcia

At Edwards, the mission and the natural environment go hand in hand. The unique physical environment makes the high desert an ideal place for flight test activities. Helping the flight testers maintain access to the air, land and water for testing and other operations, while not upsetting the delicate balance of the desert ecosystem, is the mission of Environmental Management.

To effectively accomplish its mission, Environmental Management adopted a four-pillar approach. Appropriate personnel are consulted during the planning and implementation stages of all test programs and construction projects at Edwards.

The four pillars:

Cleanup: The identification, investigation, management and cleanup of hazardous waste sites aim to protect human health and the environment.

Conservation: Environmental assessments are provided for test programs and construction projects to survey potential impact. Efforts to manage the protection and preservation of natural resources and cultural and historic sites at Edwards also fall within the conservation pillar.

Pollution prevention: Processes are developed to minimize the use of hazardous materials, the generation of hazardous waste and the deposition of solid waste in a landfill. Pillar efforts emphasize reusing and recycling programs.

The Joshua Tree (pictured in the background), found only in the Mojave Desert, is in fact not a tree at all but rather a large yucca, part of the lily family. It is one of the Mojave Desert's oldest and most distinctive plants, and may live for more than 150 years.

A coyote pauses alongside Popson Avenue with Hangar 1414 in the background. Team Edwards members are reminded to view wildlife from safe distances.

Photo by Phil Kocurek

